



Daily Reflections

May 1, 2017

Scripture

Acts 6: 8-15

Stephen, filled with grace and power,
was working great wonders and signs among the people.
Certain members of the so-called Synagogue of Freedmen,
Cyreneans, and Alexandrians,
and people from Cilicia and Asia,
came forward and debated with Stephen,
but they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke.
Then they instigated some men to say,
"We have heard him speaking blasphemous words
against Moses and God."
They stirred up the people, the elders, and the scribes,
accosted him, seized him,
and brought him before the Sanhedrin.
They presented false witnesses who testified,
"This man never stops saying things against this holy place and the law.
For we have heard him claim
that this Jesus the Nazorean will destroy this place
and change the customs that Moses handed down to us."
All those who sat in the Sanhedrin looked intently at him

and saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

Our Scripture Reflection

Our Lord while with His disciples had warned them about the persecutions that they would face one day. He assured them that there would be no need to worry about what they were to say because the Holy Spirit would care for them (Luke 12:11). Stephen was accused by the religious leaders of blasphemy as his Lord had been accused, and he remained at peace. The lesson for us? The Lord keeps His promises.

Food for your Journey

The mission of the Mirabal Sisters was to restore democracy and human rights to their island nation of the Dominican Republic. They were part of an underground clandestine resistance group fighting against the oppressive dictatorship of President Rafael Trujillo's oppressive regime. They were symbols of dignity, strength and inspiration and were brutally murdered. The murders of the three sisters were the last straw for the Dominican people. The revolt took root and started Trujillo's downfall in 1960.

At the first Latin-American and Caribbean Feminist Meeting in Colombia in 1981, the day of their death was declared International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

--Sylvia Mendoza, *The Book of Latina Women*, 139-141.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, When I face hardship because of my witness to You, keep me strong and faithful. Amen.